

# SKILLED NURSING FACILITY PROTOCOL FOR ORAL COVID-19 ANTIVIRALS ASSESSMENT AND PRESCRIPTION

## Introduction

Oral COVID-19 antivirals, e.g., Paxlovid (ritonavir-boosted nirmatrelvir) and Lagevrio (molnupiravir), are highly effective in preventing severe outcomes, including hospitalizations and death, among individuals infected with COVID-19. Because they need to be started within five (5) days of symptom onset, it is crucial to initiate the process of assessing residents with confirmed COVID-19 as soon as they test positive.

BEFORE initiating this protocol/checklist, complete the following to ensure your facility is prepared to provide oral COVID-19 antivirals in a safe and timely manner:

- Review this protocol/checklist carefully and in full.
- Provide information on outpatient COVID-19 treatments to residents, medical decision makers, families, and caregivers before they are needed. Consider posting flyers around the facility, sending out flyers, and handing out flyers. See "Resources for Residents/Caregivers on Oral COVID-19 Antivirals" at the end of this document.
- Prescribing providers\* should contact medical decision-makers ahead of time and discuss outpatient COVID-19 treatment (specifically the oral antivirals Paxlovid and molnupiravir). Providers should obtain written advanced consent for treatment whenever possible to expedite the process and ensure this high-risk patient population can start treatment in time.

*\* Includes physicians, advanced practice registered nurses (e.g., nurse practitioners), and physician assistants.*

## When to initiate this protocol/checklist:

- When there is no outbreak, facilities should initiate this protocol **within 24 hours** of 1) any resident testing positive for SARS-CoV-2 by laboratory-based PCR or point of care antigen in a symptomatic individual AND 2) any new COVID-19 admission/re-admission.
- During a COVID-19 outbreak, all residents testing positive for SARS-CoV-2 should be assessed **daily** following this protocol, including asymptomatic residents who are not initially eligible.

## **STEP 1: CONTACT PRESCRIBING PROVIDER\* AND/OR MEDICAL DIRECTOR IMMEDIATELY**

*\* Includes physicians, advanced practice registered nurses (e.g., nurse practitioners), and physician assistants.*

- Facility licensed staff must contact the prescribing provider and/or medical director for **ALL** residents testing positive for SARS-CoV-2 (by laboratory-based PCR or point of care antigen in a symptomatic individual) to evaluate their resident(s) for an oral COVID-19 antiviral medication **within 24 hours** of testing positive.
- If needed, facility licensed staff should share resources on oral COVID-19 antivirals with prescribing providers and/or medical director. See "Resources for Prescribing Providers on Oral COVID-19 Antivirals" at the end of this document.

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## STEP 2: FOLLOW UP WITH PRESCRIBING PROVIDER/MEDICAL DIRECTOR

If the prescribing providers and/or medical director has not responded within **6 hours** of reaching out, then please immediately utilize one of the backup options at the end of the checklist under "Backup Prescriber Consultation".

## STEP 3: OBTAIN CONSENT

- The prescribing providers and/or medical director discuss clinically indicated oral COVID-19 anti-viral treatment with residents and/or their medical decision-makers to obtain consent for treatment. Whenever possible, obtain written consent in advance to expedite the process and ensure treatment can start in time.
- Provide residents and/or their medical decision makers with information on the appropriate oral COVID-19 antivirals to aid with obtaining consent for treatment. At a minimum, the FDA's Fact Sheet for Patients and Caregivers on the appropriate antiviral medication should be provided. Please see "Resources for Residents/Caregivers on Oral COVID-19 Antivirals" at the end of this document.

## STEP 4: CONFIRM MEDICATION DELIVERY

If the prescribed COVID-19 oral antivirals are not delivered within **8 hours** of the prescription being submitted, please immediately follow up with the Long-Term Care Pharmacy (LTCP) contact.

The facility should be ready to provide the following to the LTCP upon request for residents with an oral antiviral prescription:

- Most recent reports of laboratory blood work (including kidney function and liver function) within the past 1 month. If there are no laboratory blood work within the past 1 month, immediately contact the provider/medical director for a STAT order for kidney function and liver function blood tests.
- List of all medications, including PRN (as needed) medications, herbal supplements, and "over-the-counter" medications.
- List of all known medication allergies.

## STEP 5: ADMINISTER MEDICATION

- The facility should administer the oral COVID-19 antivirals **immediately** and no later than four (4) hours of medication receipt from their LTCP.

## STEP 6: DOCUMENT

Regardless of the prescribing provider, facility licensed staff must ensure documentation for each resident who tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 includes:

- Facility staff reached out to the prescribing provider, medical director, and/or backup prescriber (if needed, see below "Backup Prescriber Consultation") within 24 hours of testing positive requesting assessment for oral COVID-19 antiviral eligibility.
- Prescribing provider documentation indicating whether the resident is eligible for an oral COVID-19 antiviral, including if the resident was not eligible. If the resident becomes eligible later, e.g., becomes symptomatic, documentation must reflect this as well.

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- Consent for treatment from resident and/or medical decision-maker and confirmation that the appropriate FDA Fact Sheet for Patients and Caregivers was provided to them. Consent can be either written consent with a wet signature OR verbal consent.
- Standard documentation of prescription and time of administration as per facility policy.

## **Backup Prescriber Consultation**

If there are residents who tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 whose prescribing provider AND medical director have not responded in a timely manner regarding oral COVID-19 antivirals (e.g., no response **within 6 hours**), then the facility should reach out to the following backup options in the following order:

### A. LTCP ASSISTED (preferred)

1. Facility licensed staff contacts the facility's preferred LTCP pharmacist for each positive resident whose prescribing provider AND medical director have not responded, provides all required records listed below, and requests assessment for possible antiviral prescription.
2. If **2 hours** have passed without a response for each resident, facility licensed staff should advance to Option B for assistance.

### B. LACDPH TELEHEALTH ASSISTED (ONLY for residents with decision-making capacity who are able to speak to a provider over the phone)

1. Facility licensed staff contacts the LA County Department of Public Health (LACDPH) Telehealth service at 833-540-0473 (open 8:00 AM – 8:30 PM daily) for each resident whose prescribing provider AND medical director AND LTCP pharmacist have not responded, provides all required records listed below, and requests assessment for possible antiviral prescription.
2. The Telehealth triage nurse either connects the facility licensed staff to a LACDPH telehealth provider or schedules a call-back appointment. The LACDPH telehealth provider will evaluate the resident over the phone and send an electronic prescription to the preferred LTC pharmacy if appropriate.

PRIOR to calling either of the above backup prescribing providers, facility licensed staff gathers the following records for each remaining resident with a positive SARS-CoV-2 test:

- Face sheet with resident's demographic information including date of birth and recent weight
- Resident's designated medical decision-maker and contact information (e.g., family, next of kin, healthcare durable power of attorney) if appropriate OR written advanced consent if available.
- Result and date of positive SARS-CoV-2 test
- Documentation showing current COVID-19 symptoms and date of symptom onset
- Medical history

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- Most recent reports of laboratory blood work (including kidney function and liver function) within the past one (1) month. If there is no laboratory blood work within the past one (1) month, immediately contact the provider/medical director for a STAT order for kidney function and liver function blood tests.
- List of all medications, including PRN (as needed) medications, herbal supplements, and “over-the-counter” medications
- List of all known medication allergies
- Name and phone numbers of the facility’s preferred LTCP

## **Resources for Prescribing Providers on Oral COVID-19 Antivirals:**

- LACDPH COVID-19 Outpatient Therapeutics: <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/ncorona2019/Therapeutics/>
- IDSA COVID-19 Outpatient Treatment Guidelines: <https://www.idsociety.org/covid-19-real-time-learning-network/covid-19-outpatient-treatment--guidelines-roadmap/>
- Liverpool COVID-19 Drug Interactions website: <https://www.covid19-druginteractions.org/>
- Paxlovid (ritonavir-boosted nirmatrelvir)
  - FDA’s Fact sheet for health providers: <https://www.fda.gov/media/155050/download>
  - FDA’s PAXLOVID Checklist Tool for Prescribers: <https://www.fda.gov/media/158165/download>
  - LAC DPH’s Paxlovid Prescribing Provider Tool (can be used by pharmacists): <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/ncorona2019/docs/PaxlovidScreeningandAssessmentForm.docx>
- Lagevrio (molnupiravir):
  - FDA’s Fact sheet for health providers: <https://www.fda.gov/media/155054/download>
  - FDA’s Molnupiravir Checklist Tool for Prescribers: <https://www.fda.gov/media/155118/download>

## **Resources for Residents/Caregivers on Oral COVID-19 Antivirals:**

- FDA’s Paxlovid Fact Sheet for Patients and Caregivers: <https://www.fda.gov/media/155051/download>
- FDA’s Molnupiravir Fact Sheet for Patients and Caregivers: <https://www.fda.gov/media/155055/download>
- LAC DPH Medicine to Treat and Prevent COVID-19 Webpage: <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/ncorona2019/medication/>
- LAC DPH COVID-19 Medications Flyers: <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/vaccine/outreach.htm#medicine>
- LAC DPH Medications to Treat and Prevent COVID-19 Summary Flyer (Printable PDF): [English](#) | [Español](#) | [简体中文](#) | [繁體中文](#) | [العربية](#) | [հայերեն](#) | [සිංහල](#) | [日本語](#) | [한국어](#) | [Русский](#) | [Tiếng Việt](#) | [فارسی](#) | [Tagalog](#) | [Thai](#)